

Remarks

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 CFR 1.114 since the amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) satisfies a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) does not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; or (e) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendment is thus respectfully requested.

Any amendments to any claim for reasons other than as expressly recited herein as being for the purpose of distinguishing such claim from known prior art are not being made with an intent to change in any way the literal scope of such claims or the range of equivalents for such claims. They are being made simply to present language that is better in conformance with the form requirements of Title 35 of the United States Code or is simply clearer and easier to understand than the originally presented language. Any amendments to any claim expressly made in order to distinguish such claim from known prior art are being made only with an intent to change the literal scope of such claim in the most minimal way, i.e., to just avoid the prior art in a way that leaves the claim novel and not obvious in view of the cited prior art, and no equivalent of any subject matter remaining in the claim is intended to be surrendered.

Also, since a dependent claim inherently includes the recitations of the claim or chain of claims from which it depends, it is submitted that the scope and content of any dependent claims that have been herein rewritten in independent form is exactly the same as the scope and content of those claims prior to having been rewritten in independent form. That is, although by convention such rewritten claims are labeled herein as having been "amended," it is submitted that only the format, and not the content, of these claims has been changed. This is true whether a dependent claim has been rewritten to expressly include the limitations of those claims on which it formerly depended or whether an

independent claim has been rewritten to include the limitations of claims that previously depended from it. Thus, by such rewriting no equivalent of any subject matter of the original dependent claim is intended to be surrendered. If the Examiner is of a different view, he is respectfully requested to so indicate.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for his excellent communication and very generous amounts of time provided in association with this application. It is the Applicant's understanding, from the telephone interview of April 8, 2008, that independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance in its currently amended form and is thus hereby submitted.

Further to that discussion, Applicant has also amended independent claims 8, 16 and 18 to include similar language to allowed independent claim 1. Thus, the Applicant respectfully submits independent claims 8, 16 and 18 should be allowable for at least the same reasons as independent claim 1.

Dependent claims 2, 5 and 12 have been canceled to eliminate redundancies that would otherwise remain from the amendments of their respective base claims. Dependent claims 2-4, 6-7, 9-15, 17 and 19-20 remain pending. Since each dependent claim inherently includes each and every limitation of its respective base claim, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 2-4, 6-7, 9-15, 17 and 19-20 are also allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that all outstanding rejections have been overcome and this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are, therefore, respectfully solicited.

If, however, the Examiner still believes that there are unresolved issues, the Examiner is invited to call Eamon Wall at (732) 530-9404 so that arrangements may be made to discuss and resolve any such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 4/10/08



Michael S. Bentley
Registration No. 52,613
Agent for the Applicant

PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, LLP
595 Shrewsbury Avenue, Suite 100
Shrewsbury, New Jersey 07702
Telephone: 732-530-9404
Facsimile: 732-530-9808